

To-morrow is the 49th anniversary of the accession of Queen Victoria to the throne of Great Britain and Ireland and the beginning of the 50th year of her reign.

The mother of Mr. L., the Mixed Court Magistrate of Shanghai, died on the 12th June at 6 o'clock, and Mr. L. will be obliged to give up his post and go into retirement for 27 months. The *Mercury* understands that Mr. Tai Wei-chang, second manager of the Kiangnan Arsenal, has been appointed Mr. L.'s successor.

The prospectus of the proposed Hongkong Masonic Club is published in another column. The capital of the Company has been fixed at \$8,000, divided into 800 shares of \$10 each, of which \$5 must be paid on application and \$5 on allotment. Forms of application may be had from Mr. Charles Grant (the Hon Secretary, *pro tem.*) at Messrs Kelly and Walsh's.

In what the *Shanghai Courier* hears is true, Messrs Jardine, Matheson & Co., and the large German houses, have not obtained all the plums that China is casting on the market. From a Chinese source it is heard that Messrs Russell and Company have lately negotiated a contract to supply the Chinese government with guns and munitions of war to the value of one and a quarter million taels for the defence of the Pescadores, Keelung, &c.

We have to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the valuable Returns of Trade at the Treaty Ports (of China) and Trade Reports for the year 1886, issued by the Chinese Imperial Customs. We have already given the summary of the whole trade as compiled by Mr. A. B. Drew, the Statistical Secretary, and one or two other extracts on special points from the Commissioners' reports, and we may give some further information from the exhaustive returns later on.

With reference to the alleged decamping of Paymaster Markham, of the *Esper*, mentioned by a correspondent who sent us some account of the doings of the British squadron, and whose letter we published on the 14th instant, the *Shanghai Courier* of the 15th instant says:—“It is currently reported that the paymaster of the British gunboat *Esper*, which left this port to-day has decamped, and that his accounts show that \$7,000 are missing. In addition to this it is also rumoured that he had forged Captain Hicks' name for the amount of \$6,000, the cheque having been cashed at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. This rumour having gained considerable circulation about town, our representative was sent this afternoon to interview Captain Hicks of the *Esper*, but it was found that the vessel had just left her moorings and steamed away. To what port she has gone we were unable to ascertain, but presumably to look for the missing paymaster. Our correspondent fixed the defalcation at £150, and stated that a court of enquiry had been held to examine the missing paymaster's accounts.

The case for the defence of the alleged rioters in Gough Street was opened this afternoon. The contention is that the men arrested in No. 6 and No. 21 Gough Street had run there to get shelter and were not engaged in the attack on No. 20, Lo Aluk's house. Two witnesses were brought to support this contention. The first was a clerk of Messrs Wotton & Deacon, who happened to be in the house No. 1, Gough Street, and who said he saw the men advancing up Gough Street, and before they reached the house attacked saw the door of No. 6 closed as if by people who dreaded the place would be attacked. The second was a doctor, or, rather, a quack, in whose house five of the men were arrested. He said these men made their way into his house and hid below his bed, whence they were dragged out by the police, who maltreated them. His evidence, however, seemed to be of the most confused character. The report of the case will be found in another column.

The landing of French troops on the New Hebrides and the hoisting of the French flag on these islands are acts which directly violate the distinct assurances which have from time to time been given by the French Government that the integrity of the New Hebrides would be respected, and constitute a serious breach of faith. It remains to be seen whether these acts were authorized or not by the Government. If they were, then Great Britain has been grossly deceived, and she cannot without further serious loss to her reputation, do else than demand the immediate withdrawal of the troops and lowering of the flag. If they were not, then we imagine the matter will be easily arranged. We are more inclined to believe that the latter is the proper view to take of the case. At the same time, we cannot avoid remembering that in at least one instance recently troops of a foreign power have been landed on territory apparently contrary to the wishes of the Government to which they belonged, and after all, that the territory was retained. We hope, however, that such an undignified proceeding will not be repeated. The excitement—indignation would, perhaps, be the better word—of the Australians is easily understood. Though Australia sprang from penal settlements, her colonists now wish her to be free from the contamination of criminals. Their indignation protests against any seizure of adjoining territory for the purpose of stocking it with criminals, as French politicians have suggested should be done with the New Hebrides, are therefore not unusual.

It is a pity that M. Remenyi should have paid a visit at a time when the languor of summer seems to have crept over the residents and to have left not even a relish for the highest and purest music. It is seldom that we get the chance of such a treat as has been provided at the City Hall during the last few days, and if encouragement is so meagre it is to be feared the chances will not increase. Of last night's performance the same story must be told as of the others. The audience was small and the fare the finest that could be wished. It is the perfect intonation of his music, the faultless expression of the minutest chord, that, even more than the versatility of his skill and the wide range of his expression, delighted our listeners to the grand flow of harmony that pours from Mr. Remenyi's violin. The item in last night's programme that was heard with the most rapt attention was 'The Dead March in Saul.' But although the performance was that of a master hand and every chord of the solemn subduing music sent a responsive thrill to the heart, we must confess to an uneasy feeling when the variations were given. They were doubtless grand and inspiring, and perhaps fitting as an adaptation to the violin, but they are not part of the old much-loved numbers which one would have fain heard unembellished. Old airs have a sacredness in memory and even improvements are jarring. Mr. Remenyi in the other pieces he played held, as he always does, his audience spell-bound, and he more than deserved the outbursts of enthusiastic applause, the small floral tributes, and the genuine heart-felt admiration of the audience. In response to recalls he gave with touching effect 'The Last Rose of Summer' and the *Marsellaise*. The latter was powerfully and nobly done. Few could listen to such an inspiring interpretation of Rouget de l'Isle's grand conception without feeling somewhat of the ardor that thrilled the heroes of the Revolution. A mood of praise is also due to Signorina Louisa Marchetti. She has a rich voice of wide compass and she rendered last night with sweetness and yet with powerful effect a number of the finest and most difficult pieces. On the piano M. Remenyi was ably supported by Mr. Isidore Luckatono, who played with taste and rare effect two or three solos. His 'Faust' Waltz was deservedly encored. Mr. Luckatono responding with a delightful minuet. The only thing that was wanting to make the entertainment of last night perfect was a bumper house. We fervently hope M. Remenyi will face a large audience to-night, when some atonement may be made for past neglect.

The French man-of-war *Primauguet* arrived at the Red Buoy at Shanghai from Chiofo on the 15th instant.

The Hon. Mr. Kennedy, the new United States Consul-General, arrived at Shanghai on the 10th instant by the *Tokio Maru*.

The purchaser of the wreck of the *Sesvo* is beginning to get a return for his money, and some of the things he has saved have arrived at Shanghai. —N.C.D. News.

A GRAVE-STONE in Lancashire bears an inscription which reads as follows:—“Here lies an honest lawyer: Nature works a miracle sometimes.”

The Chinkiang correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* reports that Ting Paochen, the Viceroy of Szechuen, died on the 24th ultimo.

The *Amoy Gazette* hears that the case of Malcampo v. Ochoa Heo (Lekin) has been terminated and Mr. Malcampo was awarded Tls. 10,000.

The *Foochow Echo* now hears that there is to be a lawsuit the rumour that came was to be coined at the Arsenal. It has been proposed, but has got no farther.

Says the *Foochow Echo*:—“The recent heavy rains have caused some fears for the crops, and we hear the price of rice has gone up considerably.”

H.E. MRS. GORDON, French Minister, leaves for France in the *Djemah*. Señor Salcedo, ex-Spanish Minister, will be a passenger by the same vessel. —N.C.D. News.

AMONGST the passengers who arrived at Shanghai by the s.s. *Kowshing* from the North on the 14th inst. were Mons. and Madame Gordan, Messrs Colin de Planoy, and A. Vissiers.

The s.s. *Sin Naning*, having repaired the damage sustained in the late collision with the s.s. *Harbin*, left Boyd's wharf at Shanghai on the 14th instant, and anchored in the river.

The *Ningpo*, lately in collision with the *Taku*, would probably have her repairs completed, and come out of the Old Dock on Sunday, the 13th inst. It was found necessary to replace only two plates on her starboard side.

THE engines of the U.S.S. *Marion* broke down some ten miles above Wuhu last week, and one of the engineers had to go to Shanghai in order to get the damaged piece of machinery repaired. Minister Deby had to take passage in a merchant steamer.

The Newchong correspondent of the N.C.D. News says:—“Meanwhile quantities of guns and ammunition continue to arrive, the *Kungpi* having just discharged her cargoes. It is strange that, although big sums have been paid for guns etc., and we hear continually about the magnificent war the Chinese are being armed, nearly all the infantry one sees about here are burdened with old obsolete muskets, some may be termed hammerless, but very few are breech-loaders. Business is rather quiet, shippers complain for guns etc., and we hear not eager to employ steamers; prices however keep up pretty well. Farmers ask for rain, the country being very dry.”

Says the *Overland Mail*:—“The Chinese Government are taking steps to make their new Board of Admiralty an important department. Prince Chun, its president, has been authorized to raise the sum of five million taels, about 14 million sterling, and it is not improbable that the visit of the Marquis Tsiang, who is the second member of the Board to Manchester, Glasgow, and other places has some connection with the duties of his new post. After the Marquis Tsiang returns from his provincial tour he will proceed to St. Petersburg to present his letters of recall at the Russian Court. He will then return to England, and his departure for China will take place about next August.”

WARREN on the 3rd June, the Peking correspondent of the N.C.D. News says:—“It is reported here that an arrangement has actually been made for the removal of the Peh-tung Cathedral to another site within the Imperial City, and it is supposed that the Abbot Tsiang has gone to Europe on this business. The transaction has been managed by direct negotiation between the Imperial Government and the Church; the French Legation certainly had no hand in it. The discovery that they can arrange their affairs between themselves without needing any help from the Chinese Government and the Holy See henceforth to dispense with the assistance of France which has led to much trouble to China, among other things the Tongking war.”

According to the *Shanghai Courier* of the 15th instant, a man named Moh Ching Choo, treasurer to the Chinese Legation in London, has been arrested on a warrant at Shanghai, at a native lodging house No. 12 Sungking Road and taken to the Mixed Court. As far as we can ascertain, the treasurer had embezzled Tls. 4,000 of the Chinese Government money, while in London, and then left there without the knowledge of the Minister. Marquis Tsiang afterwards telegraphed to the Chinese Legation at Shanghai for the absconder's arrest, but it was only yesterday that his whereabouts were found out, and the Mixed Court Magistrate immediately communicated with the Police for his apprehension. The prisoner was sent into the City to be dealt with by the Cbs-hien.

THE N.C.D. News hears that the Chinese contain very anxious hopes of this year's trading. Everything white-coloured is, they say, going to pay. Now the white colour covers some of the most important articles of trade—the silks, the bulk of cotton manufactures, and dyed silks; this last, in which is much banking, is to come out all right, which is a good omen for those advancing. Other comforting omens are cheering the silk dealers. On Sunday last, the fifth day of the fifth month, there was some thunder—a most lucky thing for all who hold silk, both because it happened to thunder on the day of the festival, and it has not thundered on the fifth day of the fifth month since 1876, a year for ever memorable for the high prices obtained for the article. And on the strength of this lucky coincidence we are told that orders to buy were telegraphed on Sunday to the country. We think these omens almost certain to make it all in all a very successful year, and it is said telegrams have been received reporting that the European silk crop will not be so large as was expected. When Chinese merchants thus bring science to the aid of their trading, what chance, it may be asked, have foreigners in competition with them?

THE ‘HAESHIN’-‘SIN NANZING’ COLLISION CASE. Decision was given at Shanghai on the 15th instant by the Court of Arbitration convened to investigate the circumstances of the collision between the C.M.S.N. Co.'s s.s. *Haeshin* and the Indo-China Co.'s s.s. *Sin Nanzing*. The Court consisted of Mr. G. Jamieson, Acting Assistant Judge of H.B.M.'s Supreme Court, with Captain Allison, s.s. *Felting*, and Captain Corzetti, s.s. *Whean*. We understand that the *Sin Nanzing* was brought in to blame for the collision and decreed to pay all damages.—*Shanghai Courier*.

SUICIDE OF TWO EUROPEANS IN CHINA. The *Shanghai Courier* of the 12th instant says:—“We regret to announce that telegraphic news has been received from Hankow of the suicide of Mr. G. S. Piper, who was an assistant in the firm of Messrs Adamson Bell & Co. Deceased, though not a long resident in the late collision with the s.s. *Harbin*, he was highly respected, being a popular member of the Light Horse, Polo Club, &c. A telegram has also been received announcing the death, by his own hand, of Mr. M. F. Brownlow, one of the indoor assistants of the I. M. Customs at Newchwang.”

The same paper of the 15th instant says:—“We have received from Hankow particulars of the death of Mr. G. S. Piper, Chassee for Messrs Adamson, Bell & Co. It appears that deceased was a passenger by the C.M.S.N. Co.'s steamer *Kiang-yu* from Kiangkiang to Hankow. The steamer left on the afternoon of the 14th and arrived in Hankow early the following morning. Deceased had a bath on board and went ashore to Messrs Adamson, Bell & Co.'s house, where he received his mail letters. Soon afterwards a loud report was heard, and it was discovered that Mr. Piper had shot himself by firing a hammer calibre revolver in his mouth while reclining in an easy chair under a most quiet house. It is said he previously wrote a note addressed to the representative of Messrs Adamson, Bell & Co., in which reference was made to the short time he had been married. Mr. Gardner, H.B.M. Consul at Hankow, held an inquest on the body with a jury, and a verdict was returned to the effect that the deceased committed suicide while suffering from temporary insanity. The funeral took place at eight o'clock the following morning, and it was attended by nearly all the foreign residents to Hankow, while the flag on the British Consulate was hoisted to the top of the mast during the day. Deceased was married last February, and he sailed for China three weeks afterwards, unaccompanied by his wife.”

‘FRAGRANT’ WATERS’ MURMUR. That three typhoons should be chasing each other up to the north within a week's time is most unreasonable, and that this sort of thing must be seen to. That the officers sent to inspect our Defences are said to have done their work right speedily, and that, if a few more experts be sent on to inspect during the next few years, the result will be that the ideal Defences will continue for long to be unfinished ‘castles in the air.’

That all the reports that have been in circulation cannot be true, otherwise the collection of the Defences is a very long way off indeed.

That some rumours have it that the whole of Stonecutter's Island must be handed over to the military authorities—Lazaretto, Government Powder Depot, Rabbit Warren, and all.

That others whisper that another Island will have to be built for another fort, the ‘Spot’ this time being between Stonecutter's and Green Islands, as at present more than one island could easily pass between them, and make things lively while they did so.

That the cost of establishing a new island and fort in mid-channel would only amount to about twelve lakhs of dollars.

That those who are inclined to look at these matters from a pessimistic point of view, think that the Colony will be called upon to stump up the twelve lakhs, and that the Imperial authorities will do their part by supplying old muzzle-loaders for armament.

That the only alternative open is said to be the happy idea, borrowed from the ancient times of Confucius, of blocking up the channel by means of palisades, with rows of infernal machines as a more modern decoration.

That altogether our Defences are again in a transition stage which is eminently calculated to call forth another display of the excessive ‘loyalty’ of the Legislative Council.

That a further vote on account of say a quarter of a million sterling, at 3/2 exchange, will probably be sufficient to let Lord Granville and others into official hysterics about Hongkong loyalty.

That the question of muzzle-loading guns has been relegated to a secondary place in the face of the report of the experts on the incompleteness of the defensive works.

That evidently the blundering has been systematic, and the worst of it is that the blundering is and will be an inseparable part of the system.

That the bulk of the ordnance to be supplied for the fortifications will be sufficient breech-loaders, is generally believed; but that they will be asked out by muzzle-loading guns until the new ones are ready.

That the question is still not definitely decided, whether the Canton Barracks do or do not belong to the class of ‘military monuments,’ although the riverine way is still blocked for Coast steamers.

That the Hongkong Government has at last taken vigorous steps to stamp out the curse of lawless secret societies.

That as the very essence of these associations lies in their secrecy and underground coercion, it is difficult to obtain evidence which would meet the demands of our legal system, and therefore deportation is a wise measure.

That the sleek and silent *Lokung* is deep in this business, and that as many of those now in the force are utterly untrustworthy, they should be turned out neck and crop.

That all Chinese who must be employed in the Detective Department should be under substantial guarantee.

That the Government will do well to carefully consider the suggestions made by the Triad Commission and the Chinese merchants, especially the latter, as they know more about the inner workings of the Chinese system than any European can possibly do.

That flagging should be made possible for every returned deportee, especially in the case of those who are highly dangerous to the peace and good order of the Colony.

That the case of Chang Chi is becoming monotonous, but as strict law is likely in this case to aid justice, individually and internationally, the endurance of the monotony may not be misplaced.

That the Hongkong Government have acted sensibly in defining the fairways, but that some extra regulations are required during dark nights.

That the whistling nuisance has been amply provided for, and that the Harbour Master himself must be glad of the quietness thus brought about.

That a successful litigant is right when he praises the fine intelligence of the Hongkong Jury.

That the King of Violinists, M. Remenyi, is a grand player, and that he deserved a far better reception than he has obtained in musical Hongkong.

That the fear of making the \$3 fee a precedent has frightened paternal families away from these enjoyable concerts, and that all parties concerned are the losers thereby.

either side of the new nullah, is falling away. That it is neither a convenient nor an honest thing to do; to stop the Dairy Farm coolies on the street, and force them to hand over and take payment for bottles of milk intended for other customers. BROWNIE.

THE RIOT AND TRIAD SOCIETY CASES.

The case of Li Ahn, the alleged headman of the Triad Society, was adjourned to-day till Wednesday, to give time for the defence. The case of the fourteen men charged with being connected with the Gough Street riot was then proceeded with, Dr Ho Kai prosecuting and Mr Wilson defending. The first witness called for the defence was

Tsang Kam Chin, a clerk to Messrs Wotton & Deacon, who said—I had occasion to go to the house No. 1 Gough Street. I went there about 7.15 p.m. I heard a noise like the sound of the shutting of doors. I did not hear crackers or anything of the kind. I went to the window and looked below. I saw, about three or four houses distant, a crowd of about 50 or 60. I noticed No. 6 Gough Street. The door was being shut. After seeing this I ran down stairs and went to the front of No. 6. The crowd, with bamboos, knocked at the door, evidently attempting to force an entry into the house. I noticed that the men attacking the door had a stick pointed on to their queues. District watchman No. 33 was there. He arrested the 9th prisoner. I asked him why he did not arrest the men with white sticks. He said he did not know. It was impossible that men could enter No. 20. Another witness, I asked till the police came. He was standing near me. He was whistling. I asked him what he was doing. He said he was whistling. He took all the bamboos away, leaving one in No. 6. Lo Aluk came with the police. He pointed out the house to the police.

Cross-examined—I stayed about 10 minutes in No. 1, where I heard the noise. The first thing that attracted my attention was the slamming of doors. The name of the house is ‘Kia Yan,’ a Chinese Club. There were many men in the house. The men in the street were rushing about; no fighting took place. I saw the district watchman had a man by the queue and I heard him say ‘I have never been in the house before the row. I did not know the inmates in it. I directed the police to break open the door. After the row I saw some of the neighbours on the next day and asked them to come up as witnesses. I did not know any of the defendants, and do not know any of the defendants. They might have been rioters for all I know. The Police tried to get in but failed. I told two European coolies to get in by the side door. I did not see that any of the prisoners had white sticks. I have known Lo Aluk for many years. He is a head coolie. Lo Aluk said—I am a doctor of medicine. I live on the ground floor of 21 Gough St. A portion I have sublet to chair-coolies. No. 14 was one of the coolies. As I was giving my son lessons in my house I heard crackers and the knocking of bamboos. I was frightened and that they would come to burn my house. I asked my son to shut the door. I heard at the same time the coolies door opposite slammed. I then heard bamboo poles knocking against my door. After the door was shut I heard about five or six men pass in by the back of the house. After the door stopped, the men who had rushed into the house by the back tried to make their way into my room. I and my son resisted. They cried out ‘save life.’ I do not know whether they were attacking or being attacked. They broke the front door. After the door was broken I saw my house was being entered by the back. Bamboos were thrown into my house from the window. The police got in and about their lamps on the men. The men were as quiet as frogs, but one of the police broke a treacherous over the man's head and each received a blow as he came out from below the bed. Lo Aluk was a coolie. I do not know if he had police as they were taking the men out broke a number of things in my house.

The case was adjourned till Thursday.

THE OPIUM COMMISSION.

The N.C.D. News is of opinion that unless the community of Hongkong ‘speak out against the new opium convention,’ this Colony will assuredly be made a customs station for the collection of Chinese taxes on opium. While thanking our contemporary for its good intentions, we take the liberty of saying that we feel convinced that there is not the slightest chance of its fears being realized. If there were, we have no doubt the community of Hongkong would speak out to a man in the most emphatic language against a concession which would not only work irreparable injury to a profitable and legitimate branch of the trade of the port, but which would be sacrilegious right to be called a British Colony. Schemes for the collection of the revenue on opium, identical in their main provisions with the one which the *News* now says is to be put forward on behalf of the Chinese, have been promulgated before now, and met with the most vigorous repulse at the hands of the British officials. It was a scheme such as the one now mentioned that Sir Thomas Wade protested against with success; and we implicitly trust the Hon. J. Russell, and Mr. Brennan, to see that the integrity of our island is not bartered away for a mess of pottage. If no other solution of the difficulty can be offered than the one now said to be contemplated, then the question is likely to remain unsolved for ever. The establishment and official recognition of a Chinese customs station in Hongkong harbour is too outrageous a suggestion to be entertained for a moment. Though there is nothing new in the suggestions and arguments advanced by the *News*, the article comes a propos of the sitting of the Commission, and may therefore bear reproduction.

We publish to-day (16th) a letter which was presented to Sir John Walsham by the opium merchants here and his reply thereto; from which the terms which addressed him will not derive much comfort. We are also placed in possession of what we believe is the chief part of the scheme by which it is intended to levy in Hongkong the scale of duty and lekin arranged under the convention of last year. The London Correspondent of the *Japan Mail* says that a plan has been put forward by a very high authority indeed, and that it emanates from a quarter where there is right to devise schemes for dealing with the question. The sketch of the plan which he gives agrees in its main point with what we have learned from well-informed Chinese, and also with the statements in the letter to Sir John Walsham referring to the amount of lekin and duty. The London Correspondent of our contemporary says that every ounce of opium entering the harbor of Hongkong, whether its ultimate destination be China, California, Australia, Manila or Hongkong itself, shall be put on board a Chinese hulk there, in other words, a put in the hands of the Chinese, until he said at the rate of Tls. 110 per chest, that is, the Tls. 30 import duty, and Tls. 80 compounded lekin, arranged for the Chinese ports under the new opium convention. To work this plan the Chinese say that a guild is to form the opium revenue, but this we have no doubt is entirely an arrangement between the Chinese Government and some of its own subjects. But it seems like touching the unclean thing for the English Government to become a party to a treaty or convention with China, the working of which will be controlled by Chinese, and will be entirely in the hands of the Chinese. Of course, care will be taken that there is no official recognition of a guild, but the thing will be the real work of the Customs at Hongkong. And as we know that guilds in China rapidly destroy every trade on which they found, there may be some reason to hope that their operations in Hongkong will have the effect of bringing the Chinese Government to reason, and a fair rate of duty be substituted for that provided for last year. What will strike every one as manifestly unjust, the writer in the *Japan paper* goes on to say, is, that all opium imported into Hongkong is to pay the full Tls. 110, no matter whether it be consumed in British territory, as in Hongkong itself or in Australia, and this entirely for the benefit of the revenue of China. The answer to this given in London is that, after all, the opium revenue is the property of the subjects of the Emperor of China, but this, the Correspondent goes on to remark, would be an equally good argument for establishing a branch of the Chinese Maritime Customs in the Thames to tax goods specially consumed by Chinese in the east end of London, which is rather a ridiculous objection to the scheme. The high duty and lekin will undoubtedly do a great deal of harm to the Indian opium trade; possibly it may bring it to a standstill; and we should not be surprised if the ratification of the contemplated agreement with the Government of Hongkong, reduced the import of opium one-half at a stroke. High duties like business, and as no Bengal or Bombay merchant can foresee to what extent the consumption of Indian opium will be affected, they may consider it prudent to suspend operations for a while. Every one of them will see that, in the end, it will be the thing to the world to put its opium into the Chinese hulk, it may be a very difficult thing to get Chinese to pay down in hard cash such a heavy addition to the cost of the drug. The Chinese opium dealers have not the same respect for the alleged rights of the Chinese Government as our Foreign Office has, and will not be so easily won over by their rulers, as, for instance, at the present time in the rice disputes at Swatow—by refusing to do business until they have brought their officials to reason. We regard the scheme as unworkable, and unfair to the Indian opium trade, and the establishment of a Chinese Customs hulk at Hongkong, would be that all the levy there upon opium would flow into the Imperial treasury and thus strengthen the central government. But advantageous as this might be to China, and perhaps collaterally to foreigners, it is uncertain, whereas it is certain that in some way or other the magnitude of the indemnity, whatever they are not under the eyes of foreign authorities, will manage to impose exactions. Those who have taken part in the proceedings in the matter and those who are about to meet in Hongkong know that such a scheme as this must break down. They know this, and yet they are going to continue the favor, and make the Hongkong community speak out against the new convention, the play will go on, the agreement will come into force in Hongkong, and those who sign it will try to make the world believe that the thing is not a sham.

to; from which the terms which addressed him will not derive much comfort. We are also placed in possession of what we believe is the chief part of the scheme by which it is intended to levy in Hongkong the scale of duty and lekin arranged under the convention of last year. The London Correspondent of the *Japan Mail* says that a plan has been put forward by a very high authority indeed, and that it emanates from a quarter where there is right to devise schemes for dealing with the question. The sketch of the plan which he gives agrees in its main point with what we have learned from well-informed Chinese, and also with the statements in the letter to Sir John Walsham referring to the amount of lekin and duty. The London Correspondent of our contemporary says that every ounce of opium entering the harbor of Hongkong, whether its ultimate destination be China, California, Australia, Manila or Hongkong itself, shall be put on board a Chinese hulk there, in other words, a put in the hands of the Chinese, until he said at the rate of Tls. 110 per chest, that is, the Tls. 30 import duty, and Tls. 80 compounded lekin, arranged for the Chinese ports under the new opium convention. To work this plan the Chinese say that a guild is to form the opium revenue, but this we have no doubt is entirely an arrangement between the Chinese Government and some of its own subjects. But it seems like touching the unclean thing for the English Government to become a party to a treaty or convention with China, the working of which will be controlled by Chinese, and will be entirely in the hands of the Chinese. Of course, care will be taken that there is no official recognition of a guild, but the thing will be the real work of the Customs at Hongkong. And as we know that guilds in China rapidly destroy every trade on which they found, there may be some reason to hope that their operations in Hongkong will have the effect of bringing the Chinese Government to reason, and a fair rate of duty be substituted for that provided for last year. What will strike every one as manifestly unjust, the writer in the *Japan paper* goes on to say, is, that all opium imported into Hongkong is to pay the full Tls. 110, no matter whether it be consumed in British territory, as in Hongkong itself or in Australia, and this entirely for the benefit of the revenue of China. The answer to this given in London is that, after all, the opium revenue is the property of the subjects of the Emperor of China, but this, the Correspondent goes on to remark, would be an equally good argument for establishing a branch of the Chinese Maritime Customs in the Thames to tax goods specially consumed by Chinese in the east end of London, which is rather a ridiculous objection to the scheme. The high duty and lekin will undoubtedly do a great deal of harm to the Indian opium trade; possibly it may bring it to a standstill; and we should not be surprised if the ratification of the contemplated agreement with the Government of Hongkong, reduced the import of opium one-half at a stroke. High duties like business, and as no Bengal or Bombay merchant can foresee to what extent the consumption of Indian opium will be affected, they may consider it prudent to suspend operations for a while. Every one of them will see that, in the end, it will be the thing to the world to put its opium into the Chinese hulk, it may be a very difficult thing to get Chinese to pay down in hard cash such a heavy addition to the cost of the drug. The Chinese opium dealers have not the same respect for the alleged rights of the Chinese Government as our Foreign Office has, and will not be so easily won over by their rulers, as, for instance, at the present time in the rice disputes at Swatow—by refusing to do business until they have brought their officials to reason. We regard the scheme as unworkable, and unfair to the Indian opium trade, and the establishment of a Chinese Customs hulk at Hongkong, would be that all the levy there upon opium would flow into the Imperial treasury and thus strengthen the central government. But advantageous as this might be to China, and perhaps collaterally to foreigners, it is uncertain, whereas it is certain that in some way or other the magnitude of the indemnity, whatever they are not under the eyes of foreign authorities, will manage to impose exactions. Those who have taken part in the proceedings in the matter and those who are about to meet in Hongkong know that such a scheme as this must break down. They know this, and yet they are going to continue the favor, and make the Hongkong community speak out against the new convention, the play will go on, the agreement will come into force in Hongkong, and those who sign it will try to make the world believe that the thing is not a sham.

MEMORIAL FROM THE OPIUM MERCHANTS.

The following Memorial, with Sir John Walsham's reply, has been courteously handed the N.C.D. News for publication:—

To His Excellency Sir JOHN WALSHAM, Bart., H.M.'s Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, &c., &c. The Humble Memorial of the undersigned Opium Merchants and Importers of Shanghai.

SIR,—Your memorialists view with just alarm the ratification of the Chefoo Convention of 1876 and the early enforcement of the Opium clause of the convention.

2.—The amount of duty and lekin combined, which by that clause importers have to pay, being a total of Haikwan Tael 110, is nearly thirty per cent. of value on the Indian drug.

3.—It is impossible that the Indian drug, in the importation and sale of which your memorialists' business is concerned, should be heavily taxed, already the import of Malacca Opium fell off in 1886 to the extent of 3,000 chests.

4.—The import of Patna and Benares Opium increased in 1886 some 2,000 chests, this increase being mainly due to the fact that this kind of Opium is chiefly consumed in Shanghai, and the import of lekin has been so far successfully resisted.

5.—The import in 1886 and during the early part of this year would have been much less, but that shippers in India hurried forward the Opium in the hope of getting it to market before the imposition of the new taxation, with the result that there is at the present moment an excessive stock of Opium in Shanghai amounting to about 9,000 chests, the average stock at this period of the year being 5,000 chests.

6.—The competition of native Opium has been gradually getting more severe, and the enforcement of the Opium clause will greatly increase the competition of native Opium, and thus the Indian drug. We are aware that the clause provides that the same ad valorem rate shall be charged on native as on foreign Opium, but we submit that when this ad valorem

rate is imposed the Indian Opium will have already paid Tael 110, and that while every chest of foreign drug can be traced from the time it leaves the steamer's side, and can therefore be made to pay the tax required, it is notorious that 70 to 80 per cent of the native drug evades all payment whatever owing to the laxity of the native preventive system.

7.—It is as legitimate traders that we object most strongly to this new taxation. It is certain that it will largely encourage smuggling, for it will be very profitable to the smugglers even if they lose one out of every five chests which they attempt to pass without paying duty. It is well known that native Opium is smuggled in large quantities into Shanghai over land, and both foreign and native Opium will be smuggled in much larger quantities when the new clause comes into force. Thus it is to be feared that the respectable merchants will be driven out of the trade altogether, and the whole business will fall into the hands of disreputable people, who will merely act as agents for the native smugglers, and whose actions will be a constant source of trouble and annoyance to both the foreign and native authorities.

8.—The lekin farmers here themselves allow that the new taxation will probably cause a decrease in the amount of Indian Opium of from twenty to thirty per cent, and they draw this conclusion from the fact that during the short time that lekin was strictly enforced here, the consumption of Indian Opium fell off in the proportion mentioned.

9.—Your memorialists are convinced that a reduction of the proposed taxation is absolutely necessary if their business is not to be rapidly destroyed, and they respectfully urge you to take their prayer into your most serious consideration so as to avert the fate which now impends over all the legitimate traders in native Opium. It appears to your memorialists that what is wanted is that the total amount of taxation on Opium should be fixed. The import duty is so already, and we conceive that there would be no objection if it could be arranged that an additional payment of say Tael 50 per chest should form the drug within a radius of twenty or even ten miles of the customs' jetties at the ports, and that in no case should it pay any further charge anywhere inland unless the same amount were collected there on native Opium; whether it had paid any dose elsewhere or not. Your memorialists, as is duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

DAVID SARNOON, SOHS & CO.
A. E. J. ABRAHAM.
JACOB KIRA & CO.
S. J. DAVID & CO.
CH. FOURMAYEUR & CO.
E. F. FARRER.
P.P. SMOOKER ABRA

POST OFFICE NOTICE

Wyndham Street, Hongkong.

For Merchant Ships

	late Page.	late Page.
A. McNell 2	U'Avaine 1	
A. E. Smith 1	Merem 1	
Almapopis 1	U'ahungu 1	
Alm. Benjamin Barral 1	U'ahungu 1	
Bafo 1	reg'd Naphuante 3	
Basa Ono 1	Northern, s.s. 1	
C. F. Sargent 1	Oasis 1	
Calalina 2	Obero 1	
C. Calava 1	Petition 1	
Carrie Mookle 1	Pellion, s.s. 5	
Calalina 1	Parthia, s.s. 1	
Champhino 2	Port Adelaide, s.s. 1	
Cosimo 2	Parma 1	
C. O. Quobor 7	Reg'd Light 6	
Quity Lark 1	S. Wiles, s.s. 1	
E. A. Read 8	Senna Bural 1	
F. of Zealand 1	Sketty Belle 1	
Edwin Read 1	Southern Glad 5	
Edwin 1	Sperry 1	
Emblem 8	15 Brighton 3	
Ema 6	1 Sultana 1	
Eseor 1	Sussex 1	
Reese, s.s. 1	T. F. Oakes 2	
Edina 1	Floor, s.s. 1	
Fernow, s.s. 1	Timok, s.s. 1	
General Brimington	Tobago 1	
Glen Fleoce 1	Urdine 1	
Grafton, s.s. 2	Urdine, s.s. 1	
Grafton 2	Waglan 1	
Hamptre, s.s. 1	Waglan 1	
Hall Bange 8	Wallace of Windsor 1	
Hilith 1	Water Sedgell 2	
Importer 2	Waterloo 1	
Invincible 1	reg'd Westmuth, s.s. 2	
Isaiah Read 1	Xenia 1	
J. B. Stoddard 1	Zoroya 1	
Kolvadale 1	Zovare of N. Y. 2	

Books, etc. without Cover
Ahoi!

Bombay Journal of Commerce.
 Brisbane Courier.
 Christian World.
 Correio da Gôa.
 Diario Popolare.
 Diario de Noticias.
 El Tel. de Goa.
 Evening Bulletin.
 Forerunner (Missions alias).
 Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper.
 Gaceta de Manila.
 German Newspaper and Magazine.
 Gleaner Weekly Mail.
 Il Divin Salvatore.
 Il Movimento.
 Il Secolo.
 Il Trovatore.
 Ifricombe Chronicle.
 Japanki Cephalopod.
 Journal of St. Petersburg.
 Le Tribune.
 L'Europe.
 Le Bosphore Egyptien.
 Le Francais.
 Le Rappel.
 Le Liberator Guardian.
 Methodist Recorder.
 Monthly Weather Report.
 New York Times.
 People's Friend.
 Patrial News.
 Report of the Book and Tract Society of
 Russian Newspaper.

Samples of Needles, Saturday Review.

Spelling Times.
 St. George's Journal.
 St. James Budget.
 Steam and Water Fittings.
 Teuille Fe'erals Suisse.
 The Academy.
 The Athenaeum.
 The World.
 Union.
 Weekly Northern Whig.
 Weekly Weather Report.

NAMES OF VILLAGES &c.
 IN OR NEAR HONGKONG.
 (Corrected Spelling.)

A-kung Ngan.	San Tsing.
Ap-ai Chan.	Shai-wan.
Chung-shan Hom.	Shai-wei Po.
Chung Hom.	Shai-shui Po.
Chung Wan.	Shan-shui Po.
Fo-pang.	Shek-o.
Ha-wan.	Shek Tong.

(Aberdeen). Sheung Wan.
Hok-tui. Shui-ting Wa.

Hok-tai Wan.	Se-kon P'o.
Hok-tai.	Tai-tai T'wai.
Hok-tai K'ok.	Tai-lung Ho.
Hung-hung Lo.	Tai-lung K'ing.
Hung-hung.	Tai-pang Mi.
Kai-laz Wan.	Tai-ping Shan.
Kan-pu.	Tai-shet K'ok.
Kan-pui Shek.	Tai-tan.
Kang tung.	Tai-tan Y'uk.
Kung K'ok.	Tai-tan Y'uk.
Lap-sap Wan.	Tai-wang Kum.
Liao Mun.	Tai-wing Hung.
Ma-tai Chung.	Tai-tai-mai.
Ma-tai Kok.	Tai-tai T'ui.
Ma-tai Ts'ui.	Tai-tai Wan.
Ma-tai Wal.	Tai-tung Ho.
Ma-tai.	Tai-tung Ho.
Mong-kok.	Tung-lo Wa.
Ngan Ping.	Un Chau.
Ngung-shun Chau.	Wan-tai.
Pak-ah-tai Wan.	Wong-kok Lok.
Pok-fu Lam.	Wong-ma K'ok.
Sai-wan Tai.	Wong-mai Chai.
Sai Yam-pun.	Yao-ma Tai.

NOTE.—Doormen should not be
 the use of *Kung-mei*, which is the
 H. M. the Emperor of China, and
 course inapplicable in a British Colony.

Printed and published by CHU
 BAY, at the Chinese Book Office,
 Wyndham Street, Hongkong.